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United Nations Forum on Forests

Report on the ninth session (1 May 2009 and 24 January to 4 February 2011)

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Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention	1
	A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council	1
	Draft decision I Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests	1
	Draft decision II Dates and venue for the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests	3
	Draft decision III Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its ninth session and provisional agenda for its tenth session	3
	B. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council	5
	Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication	5
	C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council	15
	Decision 9/1 Accreditation of an intergovernmental organization to the United Nations Forum on Forests	15
II.	Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests	16
III.	Regional and subregional inputs	17
IV.	Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication	18
V.	International Year of Forests, 2011	19
VI.	Emerging issues	20
VII.	High-level segment	21
	A. High-level round table 1 on "Forests for people"	21
	B. High-level round table 2 on "Finance for forest-dependent communities"	22
	C. High-level round table 3 on "Forest-plus: a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach"	22
	D. High-level round table 4 on "Forests and Rio+20"	22
	E. High-level dialogue with heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests	23

VIII. Multi-stakeholder dialogue 24

IX. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests 25

X. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management 26

XI. Forum Trust Fund 27

XII. Other matters 28

A. Launch of the report "State of the World's Forests" 28

B. Meetings of the working groups 28

C. Presentations on country-led initiatives, region-led initiatives and major group-led initiatives 28

XIII. Dates and venue for the tenth session of the Forum 29

XIV. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Forum 30

XV. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its ninth session 31

XVI. Organization of the session 32

A. Opening and duration of the session 32

B. Attendance 32

C. Election of officers 32

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work 32

E. Establishment of working groups and designation of Co-Chairs 33

F. Accreditation of an intergovernmental organization to the United Nations Forum on Forests 34

Annexes

I. List of documents 35

II. Summary by the Chair of the multi-stakeholder dialogue 38

III. Summaries by the Chair of the high-level round tables 41

A. Round table 1: Forests for people 41

B. Round table 2: Finance for forest-dependent communities 42

C. Round table 3: Forests-plus: a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach 43

D. Round table 4: Forests and Rio+20 44

E. High-level dialogue with the heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests 46

Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the following ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and decides to transmit it to the General Assembly for its endorsement, as a contribution of the Forum to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in May 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil:

Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests

1. We, the Ministers gathered at the high-level segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and for the launch of the International Year of Forests, 2011, underscore that forests are an integral part of the global environment and human well-being, providing multiple goods and services essential for people worldwide and crucial for sustainable development and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

2. We welcome the United Nations designation of 2011 as the International Year of Forests as a landmark opportunity to raise awareness and strengthen political commitment and action worldwide, this year and in the years to come, to achieve sustainable forest management.

3. We stress the vital role and significant contribution of all types of forests and trees in addressing the complex and interconnected global challenges related to economic and social development, poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, food security and agriculture, energy, water, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, conservation of biodiversity, watershed protection and disaster risk reduction.

4. We recognize that 1.6 billion people — nearly one quarter of the world's population — depend on forests for subsistence, livelihood, employment and income generation, and stress the crucial role of local people, including women, and local and indigenous communities in achieving sustainable forest management.

5. We welcome the efforts undertaken by countries in advancing sustainable forest management at all levels but are deeply concerned that 13 million hectares of forest continue to be lost each year and underscore the need to reverse this trend.

6. We reaffirm the importance of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/98 of 17 December 2007 as an integrated framework for national action and international cooperation to promote implementation of sustainable forest management and achieve the four shared global objectives on forests contained therein.

7. We welcome new and emerging forest-related financing initiatives and encourage the promotion of synergies between climate change and sustainable forest management activities, noting that sustainable forest management encompasses a comprehensive approach to forest values.

8. We recognize that the United Nations Forum on Forests, with its universal membership and comprehensive mandate, plays a vital role in addressing forest-related issues in a holistic and integrated manner and promoting international policy coordination and cooperation to achieve sustainable forest management. We invite the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue its support to the Forum and encourage stakeholders to remain actively engaged in the work of the Forum.

9. Bearing in mind the foregoing, we commit to:

(a) Improving the livelihoods of people and communities, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, by creating the conditions needed for them to sustainably manage forests, including through strengthening cooperation in the areas of finance, trade, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, capacity-building and governance, as well as by promoting secure land tenure, participatory decision-making and benefit-sharing, in accordance with national legislation, policies and priorities;

(b) Developing and implementing cross-sectoral and multi-institutional policies, mechanisms and actions at all levels, which integrate sustainable forest management into development plans and programmes;

(c) Accelerating implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and efforts towards achievement of the four shared global objectives on forests contained therein, through national, regional and international actions and cooperation;

(d) Taking a meaningful decision on forest financing at the tenth session of the Forum in 2013, as envisaged in the resolution of the special session of the ninth session of the Forum;

(e) Undertaking immediate steps towards implementing the forest-related outcomes of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals agreed in September 2010;

(f) Working with the governing bodies of member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular the three Rio Conventions, to integrate, as appropriate, the sustainable management of all types of forests into their strategies and programmes and promote coherence and synergies as related to forests;

(g) Contributing substantively to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and its preparatory process by highlighting the economic, social and environmental benefits of forests to people and the

contributions of sustainable forest management to the themes and objectives of the Conference.

10. We invite the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to consider the present declaration as the contribution of the United Nations Forum on Forests to the Conference.

11. We agree to meet again at the eleventh session of the Forum, in 2015, to review our progress in meeting these commitments, as well as the effectiveness of the international arrangement on forests.

Draft decision II
Dates and venue for the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Economic and Social Council welcomes the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests in 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey, the dates to be determined at a later stage.

Draft decision III
Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its ninth session and provisional agenda for its tenth session

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its ninth session;[1]

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Forum as set out below.

Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda

3. Progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

4. Regional and subregional inputs.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

5. Forests and economic development:

   (a) Forest products and services;

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 22* (E/2011/42).

(b) National forest programmes and other sectoral policies and strategies;

(c) Reducing risks and impacts of disasters;

(d) Benefits of forests and trees to urban communities.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on each of the four sub-themes and on conclusions and recommendations (five reports)

6. Emerging issues.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

7. Multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat and discussion papers by major groups as addenda

8. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Information note by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

9. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the second meeting of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing

10. Forum Trust Fund.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

11. Other matters.

12. Dates and venue for the eleventh session of the Forum.

13. Provisional agenda for the eleventh session of the Forum.

14. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its tenth session.

B. Resolution brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following resolution adopted by the United Nations Forum on Forests is brought to the attention of the Council:

Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication

The United Nations Forum on Forests,

Recalling the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests;[2] chapter 11 of Agenda 21;[3] and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[4]

Reaffirming its commitment to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[5] including that States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign rights to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and development policies and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, and to the common but differentiated responsibilities of countries, as set out in principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/98 of 17 December 2007, in which the Assembly adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 61/193 of 20 December 2006, in which the Assembly declared 2011 the International Year of Forests,

Recalling further its resolution on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management, adopted at the special session of its ninth session,[6]

Recalling the decision contained in the resolution of the special session of the ninth session of the Forum to establish an open-ended intergovernmental ad hoc expert group with a view to making proposals on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund, taking into account, inter alia, the results of the Forum's review of the

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[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex III.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

[5] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[6] See E/2009/118-E/CN.18/2009/2, sect. I.B.

performance of the facilitative process, views of Member States and a review of sustainable forest management-related financing instruments and processes,

Recalling also the outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010,[7] and of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010,[8]

Recalling further the multi-year programme of work of the Forum (2007-2015) and the overall theme of its ninth session, "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", including the provisions for the assessment of progress in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its four global objectives on forests,

Recalling the request made to the secretariat by the Forum at its eighth session in its resolution entitled "Forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and subregional inputs"[9] to synthesize, in cooperation with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, current information on studies and implementation activities related to the recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all types of forests and trees outside forests, as well as ways to reflect such values in the marketplace, taking into account relevant national legislation and policies, and present the results at the tenth session of the Forum in the context of the overall theme "Forests and economic development",

Emphasizing that sustainable management of all types of forests, as a critical means to eradicate poverty, significantly reduce deforestation, halt the loss of forest biodiversity and land and resource degradation and improve food security and access to safe drinking water and affordable energy, including the development of sustainable alternative energy sources, improved energy efficiency and productive agricultural land, is essential to achieving sustainable development, with particular consideration for local livelihoods,

Noting the need to strengthen public understanding of the multiple economic, environmental and social benefits provided by forests and sustainable forest management, including in the sustainable production of forest goods and services, as well as the achievement of poverty eradication, sustainable livelihoods and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing the interests of forest-dependent people, indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable forest management efforts,

Recognizing the special needs and requirements of Africa, the least developed countries, low forest cover countries, high forest cover countries, medium forest cover countries, high forest cover, low deforestation rate countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with fragile forest ecosystems,

Recognizing also that desertification and land degradation, particularly in dry forests and arid and semi-arid areas, constitute one of the key push factors leading

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[7] See FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.2.

[8] See UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27, annex.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 22* (E/2009/42), chap. I.B.

to deforestation and that addressing those challenges is imperative for sustainable forest management as well as for achieving the internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing further the need for new and emerging forest funding mechanisms and initiatives to address the needs of all types of forests in their programmes and activities,

Recognizing the continued and valuable role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in providing a framework to enhance cooperation and collaboration among its members to facilitate the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the multi-year programme of work of the Forum,

Recognizing also the value of regional and subregional dialogue and cooperation on forests, including through country-led, region-led and organization-led initiatives,

Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication

1. *Invites* Member States, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant stakeholders:

(a) To take action to foster the role of forests that contribute to poverty eradication in developing countries based on sustainable forest management as the basis for economic development for those countries;

(b) To explore, develop and improve an enabling policy environment to strengthen forest law enforcement and governance, attract long-term investment and finance in sustainable forest management, clarify and strengthen the security of tenure rights and enhance the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and responsibilities with indigenous peoples and local communities whose livelihoods depend directly on forests;

(c) To clarify and strengthen, if necessary, the access to forest use, inter alia by taking measures to enable indigenous peoples and forest-dependent and local communities to sustainably manage and benefit from forests, with due regard to the special needs of women and youth;

(d) To facilitate capacity-building in developing countries among, inter alia, indigenous peoples and local communities, through training, education networks and associations, to practise sustainable forest management in order to maintain the multiple values of forests and reap their benefits;

(e) To further develop and implement forest landscape restoration and other approaches that support sustainable forest management with the full participation of forest-dependent communities, building on the work of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration;

(f) To strengthen the development of participatory mechanisms of decision-making processes related to forests, including trees outside forests, in particular with respect to the involvement of local communities and indigenous peoples and their knowledge, with a specific focus on empowering women and youth;

(g) To promote efforts to sustain the supply and quality of water from forests for rural and urban populations and for agricultural production;

(h) To incorporate forest education in the curricula of primary and secondary schools, making use of all media, and taking advantage of the opportunity of the International Year of Forests, 2011;

(i) To strengthen enabling environments to promote local entrepreneurship, community-company partnerships and small and medium-sized forest-based enterprises and related organizations in sustainable forest management, as well as addressing the health and safety of forest workers;

(j) To strengthen capacity for data collection and updates to make databases user-friendly and easily accessible;

(k) To integrate the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, national forest programmes and forest financing strategies into national development strategies, and other intersectoral coordination mechanisms to address poverty eradication;

(l) To mobilize increased financing from all sources for a people-focused approach, specifically in integrated rural development programmes and community-oriented sustainable forest management activities;

(m) To consider activities and mechanisms to share information and experiences on forest valuation methodologies to better reflect the full value of forest ecosystems and trees outside forests in order to enrich the discussion of the overall theme of the tenth session of the Forum, in 2013;

2. *Invites* the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests:

(a) To assist national Governments, on their request and, as appropriate, local governments and community groups in improving communication and facilitation management skills in order to strengthen collaboration with other sectors;

(b) To analyse relevant information on the contribution of forests and trees outside forests to economic, social and environmental benefits and the protection of vulnerable and fragile ecosystems and to facilitate the development of forest valuation methodologies and a harmonized reporting format that can be easily used by Member States, with a view to synthesizing this information for submission to the Forum at its tenth session in the context of the overall theme of, "Forests and economic development";

Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests

3. *Decides* that simple voluntary national reporting for the tenth session of the Forum will focus on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and balanced reporting on its four global objectives on forests, and requests the secretariat to this end to develop a streamlined reporting format, in consultation with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;

4. *Invites* Member States and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to initiate and support additional pilot projects and to continue to support the existing pilot projects in Ghana, Liberia, Nicaragua and the Philippines on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

5. *Encourages* donor countries and other countries in a position to do so and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to make voluntary financial contributions to the Forum Trust Fund to enable the Forum secretariat, with the assistance of the National Forest Programme Facility, to effectively assist, on request, in the preparation of voluntary national reports;

6. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to consider how it can further incorporate into its reporting on the state of the world's forests, including through the global forest resources assessment programme, the elements of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its global objectives on forests;

Regional cooperation

7. *Invites* regional and subregional organizations to strengthen contributions to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its four global objectives on forests;

8. *Also invites* regional and subregional organizations, with the assistance of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as requested, as well as major groups and other forest stakeholders, to provide information to the Forum at its tenth session, in the context of its overall theme, on their efforts towards the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its four global objectives on forests through sharing regional perspectives, approaches and experiences;

9. *Further invites* the secretariat and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in conjunction with regional and subregional processes, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development initiative on sustainable forest management and the Tehran Process on Low Forest Cover Countries, among others, to further develop strategies to promote North-South as well as South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation on sustainable forest management;

International Year of Forests, 2011

10. *Strongly urges* Member States and regional and international organizations to take advantage of the International Year of Forests, 2011, as an extraordinary occasion to raise awareness of the multiple values of forests and the challenges facing many of the world's forests and the people who depend on them and to strengthen political will to address the gaps in the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and the achievement of its four global objectives, including through promoting international cooperation on means of implementation, inter alia, financing and resource mobilization strategies, and on the transfer of technology to developing countries;

11. *Renews its invitation* to Member States to establish national coordinating committees or designate focal points to promote and coordinate activities and initiatives related to the International Year of Forests, 2011 at the local and national levels, and encourages voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups to link their relevant activities to the International Year of Forests, 2011;

12. *Encourages* Member States to promote awareness of success stories and challenges related to implementing sustainable forest management at the national,

regional and international levels, including as a means of promoting North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

13. *Also encourages* all relevant organs of the United Nations, including the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and the regional commissions, as well as United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes, to fully support, contribute to and participate in the activities envisaged for the observance of 2011 as the International Year of Forests;

14. *Recommends* that the Economic and Social Council and, through it, the General Assembly consider the establishment of an International Day of the Forest with the aim of recognizing the significant contribution of forests to sustainable development, the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals and the corresponding need to strengthen the sustainable management of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations;

15. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to promote a sound understanding by individuals, communities, Member States and international organizations of the multiple values of forests, including their ecosystem functions, and the need to manage them sustainably;

Enhanced cooperation

16. *Invites* Member States to support major group initiatives to maintain their engagement in the Forum and their commitments to the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to address the relationship between forests and trees outside forests and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, at relevant international and regional meetings addressing sustainable development;

18. *Invites* the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to provide scientific information relevant to the themes of future sessions of the Forum, through adequate modalities, including the global forest expert panels, which should continue to include experts from developing countries;

19. *Requests* the secretariat of the Forum to continue to further cooperate with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions to promote cooperation towards a comprehensive approach to the multiple values of forests and sustainable forest management;

20. *Encourages* Member States to send consistent messages to the governing bodies that form the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to continue to support the work of the Forum in order to ensure coherence and synergies related to forests, and welcomes the memorandums of understanding concluded by the secretariat of the Forum with the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Global Environment Facility and the International Tropical Timber Organization;

21. *Invites* the World Agroforestry Centre, in collaboration with other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, to develop analyses of agroforestry opportunities for the economic development of forest communities and to report thereon to the Forum at its tenth session;

Means of implementation

22. *Calls for* the implementation of all provisions of the resolution on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management adopted at the special session of its ninth session, in October 2009,[6] and in this regard notes with appreciation the work of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing;

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of intersessional activities in preparation for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, its successful outcome and the need for adequate financial support to enable the full participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in those activities;

24. *Invites* substantive submissions, to be received by 1 March 2012, from Governments, relevant regional organizations and processes and major groups on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund, and the advantages and disadvantages of different options, envisaged functions, structures, requirements and deliverables of these options;

25. *Recognizes* the voluntary nature of the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the fact that activities undertaken by its members in support of the work of the Forum are contingent on prior review and approval by their respective governing bodies and the availability of extrabudgetary resources for such activities;

26. *Invites* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to report to the Forum at its tenth session on their ongoing and future actions on forest financing and to focus, deepen and broaden their work in support of action on financing sustainable forest management;

27. *Reiterates its invitation* to the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, as reflected in the resolution of the special session of the ninth session of the Forum, to consider holding an organization-led initiative in support of the work of the Forum on forest financing by 1 June 2012;

28. *Invites* members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to provide to the organization-led initiative referred to above its analyses of gaps in and opportunities for forest-related financing, addressing, inter alia, climate change, biological diversity, sustainable land and forest management, land degradation and desertification and financial resources associated with forest law enforcement and governance processes, as well as the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and capacity-building;

29. *Also invites* the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to expand and update the 2008 finance paper[10] for the second meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing, and to provide proposals to the organization-led initiative referred to above, including on

[10] Marku Simula, *Financing Flows and Needs to Implement the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests*, the Advisory Group on Finance of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, 2008.

strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund;

30. *Requests* the Forum secretariat to compile all the above-mentioned submissions, proposals, input and outcome for consideration at the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group;

31. *Invites* Member States and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant stakeholders to support the implementation of all functions of the facilitative process, and to this end invites donor countries to provide voluntary contributions to ensure that all functions of the facilitative process are performed;

32. *Agrees* that there is an urgent need among the facilitative process functions:

(a) To work to identify the barriers to access to financing, in particular for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, to suggest ways to simplify relevant procedures and build the capacity of countries to remove them, to examine the effects, impact and synergies of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional activities on forest financing and to integrate the lessons learned into their submissions to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group;

(b) To encourage relevant institutions, such as international financial institutions, as appropriate, working in close concert with regional forest processes, to further develop ways to mobilize resources from all sources and to mainstream the global objectives on forests in their programmes;

33. *Requests* the secretariat of the Forum, in accordance with the resolution of the special session of the ninth session of the Forum, to report to the Forum on the progress made on the facilitative process;

34. *Also requests* the secretariat of the Forum and invites other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other key actors to examine the implications on broader forest financing of new and emerging forest-related financing initiatives relating to the three Rio Conventions in order to further promote an integrated approach to sustainable forest management, and invites voluntary contributions to support this work;

35. *Calls upon* Member States, in preparation for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group, to further collaborate and share experiences with the private sector, building on lessons learned, given the importance of the private sector in providing sustainable finance for sustainable forest management and the crucial role of a stable and predictable enabling environment for their investments, and invites members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to strengthen this area of cooperation;

36. *Calls for* further collaboration and sharing of experiences among Governments to develop innovative financing mechanisms;

37. *Urges* Member States, as appropriate, to develop and implement national forest policy and policy instruments on all types of forests and trees outside forests, including all of the functions of forests and trees, and in so doing take a cross-sectoral approach to the issue of forest finance, keeping in mind the importance of integrating forest and related issues into poverty reduction strategies or equivalent

cross-cutting mechanisms, and to report their progress, experiences and lessons to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group and the Forum at its tenth session;

38. *Requests* the Co-Chairs of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group to hold an open-ended informal briefing between the ninth session of the Forum and the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group;

39. *Emphasizes* that only proposed actions which are part of the agreed biennial programme of work of the Forum secretariat are covered by the regular budget, that actions undertaken by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and Member States will be financed by them and that the remaining proposed intersessional actions require voluntary contributions to the Forum Trust Fund;

Forum Trust Fund

40. *Calls upon* international and bilateral donors and other countries in a position to do so to implement General Assembly decision 58/554 of 23 December 2003 and to increase designated travel support contributions to the Forum Trust Fund to provide travel and daily subsistence allowance to representatives from developing countries, with priority for those from least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, and invites voluntary contributions to allow for the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Expert Group and the tenth session of the Forum, and whenever necessary to prioritize the coverage of economy class air tickets, daily subsistence allowance and terminal expenses.

Annex

Guidelines for country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led initiatives in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests

The Forum takes note of the following guidelines for country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led initiatives in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests:

I. Background

1. International expert meetings in support of the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests hosted by countries or others have made important and extremely significant contributions to the process. These initiatives are innovative and unique mechanisms of the intergovernmental forest policy process (the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and the United Nations Forum on Forests) that have deepened knowledge of important issues concerning sustainable forest management and international cooperation in that regard. The usefulness of such initiatives is evident from the recognition they have received for their contributions in achieving consensus and from the increasing number of countries, organizations and major groups that have hosted such initiatives in recent years. In light of the experiences and lessons learned from initiatives led by countries, organizations, regions and major groups, these guidelines draw upon the previous guidelines contained in resolutions and decisions of the Economic and

Social Council, the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests.

II. Guidelines for country-led, organization-led, region-led and major group-led initiatives

2. The overall purpose of any country-led, organization-led, region-led or major group-led initiative is to support the work of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Thus, countries may wish to consider the following guidelines when planning such initiatives:

(a) These initiatives should be related to the multi-year programme of work and cross-cutting issues of the United Nations Forum on Forests, as well as emerging issues. They can also be held to advance the implementation of previous outcomes of the Forum;

(b) These initiatives should be informal in nature, transparent, participatory, strive for balanced representation, including gender, and be open to participation by all member States of the Forum, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, representatives of major groups, as well as other interested stakeholders;

(c) Proponents of an initiative should bring their interest in convening an initiative to the attention of the Bureau and the secretariat of the Forum as soon as possible, in writing, stating the objectives of the initiative, its relevance to the work of the Forum, the proposed venue and date, as well as the estimated participation;

(d) The secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests will participate in the committee established to guide the initiative;

(e) The cost of such initiatives will be borne by the hosts, donors or provided from other sources. Neither the regular United Nations budget nor the United Nations Forum on Forests Trust Fund will cover the cost of such initiatives;

(f) The Bureau member from the region in which the initiative is being held should be invited to attend;

(g) The travel and expenses of one member of the United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat will be covered by the initiative;

(h) Following an initiative, the organizers should submit a report for presentation to the Secretary-General which will be placed on the website of the United Nations Forum on Forests;

(i) In the interest of registering and acknowledging the contribution of all those involved in the initiative, including in terms of their financial support, the proponents of the initiative may wish to include this information in the report to be submitted to the Secretary-General;

(j) Countries, organizations, regions and major groups are invited to consider these guidelines that will apply to the initiatives announced after the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests.

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Forum is brought to the attention of the Council:

Decision 9/1
Accreditation of an intergovernmental organization to the United Nations Forum on Forests

At its 2nd meeting, on 24 January 2011, the United Nations Forum on Forests decided to grant accreditation to the African Forest Forum, an intergovernmental organization, to participate as an observer in its ninth session, as well as in future sessions.

Chapter II

Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests

4. The Forum considered agenda item 3 at its 2nd, 4th, 8th, 9th and 13th meetings, on 24, 25 and 31 January and 1 and 4 February 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests (E/CN.18/2011/2).

5. At its 2nd and 4th meetings, on 24 and 25 January, the Forum considered agenda item 3 jointly with items 6, 8 and 12.

6. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 January, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Action taken by the Forum

7. At its 8th meeting, on 31 January, the Forum had before it a draft resolution (under items 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12) entitled "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", contained in an informal paper and submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

8. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chair, Arvids Ozols (Latvia), in which he introduced the draft resolution.

9. At its 13th meeting, on 4 February, the Forum had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", contained in an informal paper submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

10. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the draft resolution by acclamation (see chap. I, sect. B).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Guatemala, Hungary (on behalf of the European Union and associated countries), Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Switzerland, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Mexico, Brazil, Japan, Algeria (on behalf of the African Group), Cuba, Indonesia, Zambia, the United States of America, South Africa, Ghana, Pakistan, Denmark and Colombia.

Chapter III
Regional and subregional inputs

12. The Forum considered agenda item 4 at its 5th, 8th, 9th and 13th meetings, on 25 and 31 January and 1 and 4 February 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the report of the Secretary-General on regional and subregional inputs (E/CN.18/2011/3).

13. At its 5th meeting, on 25 January, the Forum heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Action taken by the Forum

14. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 7 to 10.

Panel discussion on "Regional and subregional perspectives on forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication"

15. At its 5th meeting, on 25 January, the Forum held a panel discussion on "Regional and subregional perspectives on forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication", moderated by Paola Deda of the Economic Commission for Europe.

16. Presentations were made by the following panellists: Jean Jacques Zam, Member of Parliament, Cameroon; Peter Besseau, Executive Director, International Model Forest Secretariat, and Director, International Affairs, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada; and Doris Capistrano, Chair, External Advisory Group on Forest Strategy, World Bank.

17. The Forum held a dialogue with the panellists in which the representatives of Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mexico and Turkey, as well as the representative of the European Union, participated.

18. The observers for the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation, the Central African Forests Commission, the Economic Community of Central African States, Forest Europe, the Montreal Process and the secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries also participated.

19. The moderator also made a statement, on behalf of the Economic Commission for Europe.

Chapter IV
Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication

20. The Forum considered agenda item 5 at its 4th, 8th, 9th and 13th meetings, on 25 and 31 January and 1 and 4 February 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on community-based forest management (E/CN.18/2011/4);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on forests for people: cultural and social values of forests and social development (E/CN.18/2011/5);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on conclusions and recommendations addressing key challenges of forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication (E/CN.18/2011/6);

(d) Letter dated 26 October 2010 from the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2011/15);

(e) Letter dated 3 November 2010 from the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland, Indonesia, South Africa and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2011/16);

(f) Letter dated 9 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2011/17);

(g) Letter dated 11 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (E/CN.18/2011/19).

21. At the 4th meeting, on 25 January, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Action taken by the Forum

22. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 7 to 10.

Chapter V
International Year of Forests, 2011

23. The Forum considered agenda item 6 at its 2nd, 4th, 8th, 9th and 13th meetings, on 24, 25 and 31 January and 1 and 4 February 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the preparations for the International Year of Forests, 2011 (E/CN.18/2011/7).

24. At its 2nd and 4th meetings, on 24 and 25 January, the Forum considered agenda item 6 jointly with item 3, "Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests"; item 8, "High-level segment"; and item 12, "Forum Trust Fund".

25. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 January, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Action taken by the Forum

26. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 5 to 10.

Chapter VI
Emerging issues

27. No discussion took place under agenda item 7.

Chapter VII
High-level segment

28. The Forum considered agenda item 8 at its 2nd, 4th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th meetings, on 24, 25 and 31 January and 1, 2 and 3 February 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the high-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations (E/CN.18/2011/8).

29. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 January, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

30. At the 9th meeting, on 1 February, a statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat on the preparations for the high-level segment.

31. At its 10th meeting, on 2 February, the Forum held its high-level round table 1 on the topic "Forests for people" in parallel with round table 2 on the topic "Finance for forest-dependent communities".

32. At its 11th meeting, on 3 February, the Forum held its high-level round table 3 on the topic "Forests-plus: a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach" in parallel with round table 4 on the topic "Forests and Rio+20".

33. At its 12th meeting, on 3 February, the Forum held a high-level dialogue with heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Action taken by the Forum

34. At its 8th meeting, on 31 January, the Forum had before it a draft ministerial declaration on the occasion of the launch of the International Year of Forests, which was contained in an informal paper.

35. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the Chair, Arvids Ozols (Latvia), in which he introduced the draft ministerial declaration.

36. At its 12th meeting, on 3 February, the Forum had before it a revised draft ministerial declaration, contained in an informal paper.

37. At the same meeting, following a statement by the Chair (Latvia), the Forum adopted the draft ministerial declaration by acclamation (see chap. I, sect. A).

38. After the adoption of the ministerial declaration, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Japan, Colombia, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the United States and Turkey.

39. A statement was also made by the observer for the European Union.

A. High-level round table 1 on "Forests for people"

40. The round table was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria), and moderated by Mohamed El-Ashry, Senior Fellow, United Nations Foundation, and former Chief Executive Officer, Global Environment Facility.

41. Following the statement by the moderator, the representatives of Croatia, Norway, Turkey, Cameroon, Austria, Thailand, Zambia, the Philippines, Peru,

Ghana, China, Senegal, Mongolia, Angola, Romania, the United States, Morocco, Hungary, Jamaica, Lesotho, the Central African Republic, India, Poland, the Russian Federation, the Czech Republic, Israel, Mauritania, Ukraine, Gabon, Indonesia, Botswana, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Eritrea and Afghanistan made statements.

42. The round table was resumed at the 11th (parallel) meeting, chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair, Zainol Zainuddin (Malaysia).

43. The representatives of Italy and Nepal made statements.

B. High-level round table 2 on "Finance for forest-dependent communities"

44. The round table was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Ndiawar Dieng (Senegal), and moderated by Ana Maria Sampaio Fernandes, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office at Nairobi.

45. Following the statement by the moderator, the representatives of Malaysia, the Sudan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Botswana, Paraguay, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United States, Zimbabwe, Nepal, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Guatemala made statements.

46. The observer for the International Union for Conservation of Nature made a statement.

C. High-level round table 3 on "Forest-plus: a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach"

47. The round table was chaired and moderated by the Vice-Chair, Zainol Zainuddin (Malaysia).

48. The representatives of Namibia, France, Mexico, Australia, the Netherlands, Chad and Papua New Guinea (also on behalf of Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands) made statements.

49. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe and the observer for the International Union of Forest Research Organizations also made statements.

D. High-level round table 4 on "Forests and Rio+20"

50. The round table was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Raymond Landveld (Suriname), and moderated by Daniel Reifsnyder, Deputy Assistant Secretary, United States Department of State.

51. A statement was made by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

52. Following the statement by the moderator, the representatives of the Congo, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Finland, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Estonia, Switzerland, Sweden, Gabon, Togo, Egypt, Liechtenstein, Chile, Costa Rica,

Kazakhstan, Poland, Slovakia, Algeria, Japan, Viet Nam, Nicaragua, Kenya, Senegal, China and Guyana made statements.

E. High-level dialogue with heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

53. The Chair, Arvids Ozols (Latvia), presided over the dialogue which was moderated by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

54. An opening statement was made by Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

55. The dialogue addressed three themes: promoting the International Year of Forests, 2011; forest finance and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and achievement of the global objectives on forests; and forests and Rio+20.

Theme 1: Promoting the International Year of Forests, 2011

56. In response to the questions posed by the moderator, statements were made by Helen Clark, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme; Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director-General, International Union for the Conservation of Nature; Frances Seymour, Director-General, Center for International Forestry Research; Dennis Garrity, Director-General, World Agroforestry Centre; and Niels Elers Koch, President, International Union of Forest Research Organizations.

Theme 2: Forest finance and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and achievement of the global objectives on forests

57. In response to the questions posed by the moderator, statements were made by Gustavo Fonseca, Director, Natural Resources, Global Environment Facility; and Gerhard Dieterle, Senior Adviser, Agriculture Department, World Bank.

Theme 3: Forests and Rio+20

58. In response to the questions posed by the moderator, statements were made by Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification; Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity; Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General, Forestry Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); Emmanuel ZeMeka, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization; and Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, United Nations Environment Programme.

59. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, addressed the Forum by video message.

Interactive dialogue on the three themes

60. Statements were made by the representatives of Colombia and Brazil.

Chapter VIII
Multi-stakeholder dialogue

61. The Forum considered agenda item 9 at its 6th meeting, on 26 January. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the secretariat on the multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2011/9);

(b) Discussion paper on social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure (E/CN.18/2011/9/Add.1);

(c) Discussion paper on forests and culture (E/CN.18/9/Add.2);

(d) Discussion paper on the Community Forestry Programme in Nepal: an example of excellence in community-based forest management (E/CN.18/9/Add.3).

62. At the same meeting, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Interactive dialogue among Member States, major groups and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

63. Also at its 6th meeting, on 26 January, the Forum held an interactive dialogue among Member States, major groups and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, moderated by Alexander Buck, Executive Director, International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO).

64. For the first part of the interactive dialogue, presentations were made by the following focal points of major groups: Abidah Billah Setyowati (women), Joseph Cobbinah (scientific and technological communities) and Ghan Shyam Pandey (farmers and small forest landowners).

65. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of Nepal, Suriname, Austria, Turkey, Argentina, China, Colombia, Papua New Guinea, Guatemala, Brazil, Morocco and Samoa participated.

66. The major group representative of the non-governmental organizations as well as the observer for the Commission for the Forests of Central Africa also participated.

67. A statement was made by the moderator.

68. For the second part of the interactive dialogue, a presentation was made by Lambert Okraah, Major Groups Initiative Coordinator.

69. In the ensuing discussion, the representatives of Ghana and Turkey, as well as the representative of FAO (on behalf of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests), participated.

70. The representatives of the following major groups also participated: non-governmental organizations; and children and youth.

71. A statement was made by the moderator.

Chapter IX

Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

72. The Forum considered agenda item 10 at its 5th, 8th, 9th and 13th meetings, on 25 and 31 January and 1 and 4 February 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination (E/CN.18/2011/10);

(b) Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2009 and 2010 (E/CN.18/2011/11).

73. At its 5th meeting, on 25 January, the Forum heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Action taken by the Forum

74. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 7 to 11.

Chapter X
Means of implementation for sustainable forest management

75. The Forum considered agenda item 11 at its 3rd, 8th, 9th and 13th meetings, on 24 and 31 January and 1 and 4 February 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on means of implementation for sustainable forest management (E/CN.18/2011/12);

(b) Report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (E/CN.18/2011/13);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing (E/CN.18/2011/2).

76. At the 3rd meeting, on 24 January, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

77. At the same meeting, the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing, Macharia Kamau (Kenya) and Jan Heino (Finland), made introductory statements.

Action taken by the Forum

78. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 7 to 11.

Panel discussion on "Food, energy and economic challenges and opportunities, with special focus on women and youth"

79. Also at its 3rd meeting, the Forum held a panel discussion on "Food, energy and economic challenges and opportunities, with special focus on women and youth", chaired by the Chair, Arvids Ozols (Latvia), and moderated by Gill Shepherd, core member of the Group on Ecosystems for Human Well-being.

80. Presentations were made by Tolulope Daramola, member, International Forestry Students Association; Cleto Ndikumagenge, facilitator-delegate, Congo Basin Forest Partnership; and Jeannette Gurung, founder and Director, Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management.

81. In the ensuing discussion, comments were made and questions were posed by the representatives of Senegal, Brazil, Morocco, Finland, Switzerland and Paraguay, as well as by the observer for the secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries, to which the panellists responded.

Chapter XI
Forum Trust Fund

82. The Forum considered agenda item 12 at its 2nd and 4th meetings on 24 and 25 January 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the note by the Secretariat on the United Nations trust funds to support the United Nations Forum on Forests (E/CN.18/2011/14).

83. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 January, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Forum secretariat.

Action taken by the Forum

84. For the action taken by the Forum on the item, see chapter II, paragraphs 5 to 11.

Chapter XII
Other matters

A. Launch of the report "State of the World's Forests"

85. At its 3rd meeting, on 24 January 2011, the Forum heard a statement by the Assistant Director-General of the Forestry Department, FAO, and Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests with regard to the launching of the 2011 edition of the biennial report on the "State of the World's Forests".

B. Meetings of the working groups

86. Working Groups 1 and 2 (see chap. XVI, sect. E, paras. 107 and 108) held three parallel meetings, on 26 and 28 January 2011. Working Group 1 also held a fourth meeting, on 3 February 2011, to adopt the draft ministerial declaration, ad referendum, for submission to the Forum.

87. At its 7th and 9th meetings, on 28 January and 1 February 2011, the Forum heard progress reports on the deliberations of the working groups from the Co-Chairs of Working Group 1 (Austria and Malaysia) and the Co-Chair of Working Group 2 (Suriname).

C. Presentations on country-led initiatives, region-led initiatives and major group-led initiatives

88. At the 1st (parallel) meeting of Working Group 1, on 26 January 2011, presentations were made by the representatives of China, Ghana and Mexico.

89. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Viet Nam, India and Brazil.

90. Also at the same meeting, a statement was made by the observer for the secretariat of the Tehran Process for Low Forest Cover Countries.

Chapter XIII
Dates and venue for the tenth session of the Forum

91. The Forum considered agenda item 14 at its 13th meeting, on 4 February 2011.

92. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Turkey.

Action taken by the Forum

93. Also at the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chair, the Forum decided that its tenth session would be held in 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey, the dates to be determined at a later stage (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II).

Chapter XIV
Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Forum

94. The Forum considered agenda item 15 at its 13th meeting, on 4 February 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the draft provisional agenda for its tenth session (E/CN.18/2011/L.2).

Action taken by the Forum

95. At the same meeting, the Forum adopted the provisional agenda (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision III).

Chapter XV
Adoption of the report of the Forum on its ninth session

96. The Forum considered agenda item 16 at its 13th meeting, on 4 February 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the draft report on its ninth session (E/CN.18/2011/L.1).

97. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur (Senegal) introduced the draft report, after which the Forum adopted the draft report and entrusted the Rapporteur with the task of completing the report in collaboration with the Bureau and the secretariat, for submission to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2011.

Chapter XVI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

98. The United Nations Forum on Forests held its ninth session at United Nations Headquarters on 1 May 2009 and from 24 January to 4 February 2011. The Forum held 13 plenary meetings.

99. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.

B. Attendance

100. In accordance with paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2000/35, the Forum is composed of all States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, with full and equal participation. The ninth session of the Forum was attended by representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies. Representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and of intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in document E/CN.18/2011/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

101. At its 1st meeting, on 1 May 2009, the Forum elected, by acclamation, the following officers to the Bureau of its ninth session:

Vice-Chairs:
Zainol Rahim Zainuddin (Malaysia)
Raymond Harold Landveld (Suriname)
Ndiawar Dieng (Senegal)

102. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 January 2011, the Forum elected the following officers, by acclamation:

Chair:
Arvids Ozols (Latvia)

Vice-Chair:
Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria)

103. At the same meeting, the Forum was informed that the Vice-Chair, Ndiawar Dieng (Senegal), would also serve as Rapporteur for the ninth session.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

104. At its 2nd meeting, on 24 January, the Forum adopted the provisional agenda for its ninth session as contained in document E/CN.18/2011/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests.
4. Regional and subregional inputs.
5. Forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication:
   (a) Community-based forest management;
   (b) Social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure;
   (c) Social and cultural aspects.
6. International Year of Forests, 2011.
7. Emerging issues.
8. High-level segment.
9. Multi-stakeholder dialogue.
10. Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.
11. Means of implementation for sustainable forest management.
12. Forum Trust Fund.
13. Other matters.
14. Dates and venue for the tenth session of the Forum.
15. Provisional agenda for the tenth session of the Forum.
16. Adoption of the report of the Forum on its ninth session.

105. Also at its 2nd meeting, following a statement by the Chair, the Forum approved the proposed organization of work for the session, as contained in an informal paper.

E. Establishment of working groups and designation of Co-Chairs

106. Also at its 2nd meeting, on 24 January, the Forum established two working groups.

107. Working Group 1 would be co-chaired by the Vice-Chairs, Ingwald Gschwandtl (Austria) and Zainol Rahim Zainuddin (Malaysia), and would consider the main theme of the ninth session, "Forest for people, livelihood and poverty eradication" (agenda item 5); "International Year of Forests, 2011" (agenda item 6); and the "High-level segment" (agenda item 8), as well as conduct the discussions and negotiations on a draft ministerial declaration.

108. Working Group 2 would be co-chaired by the Vice-Chairs, Ndiawar Dieng (Senegal) and Raymond Harold Landveld (Suriname), and would consider the "Assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests" (agenda item 3); "Regional and subregional inputs" (agenda item 4); "Enhanced cooperation and policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests" (agenda item 10); and "Means of implementation for sustainable forest management" (agenda item 11), as well as conduct the discussions and negotiations on a draft resolution (covering agenda items 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 12).

F. Accreditation of an intergovernmental organization to the United Nations Forum on Forests

109. Also at its 2nd meeting, on 24 January, the Forum had before it document E/CN.18/2011/18 containing a request from the African Forest Forum for accreditation as an intergovernmental organization to participate as an observer in the deliberations of the Forum.

110. At the same meeting, the Forum decided to grant the request by the African Forest Forum for accreditation to participate as an observer in its sessions (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 9/1).

Annex I

List of documents

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
E/CN.18/2011/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.18/2011/2	3	Report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of progress made on the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and towards the achievement of the four global objectives on forests
E/CN.18/2011/3	4	Report of the Secretary-General on regional and subregional inputs
E/CN.18/2011/4	5 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on community-based forest management
E/CN.18/2011/5	5 (b) and 5 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General on cultural and social values of forests and social development
E/CN.18/2011/6	5	Report of the Secretary-General on conclusions and recommendations for addressing key challenges of forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication
E/CN.18/2011/7	6	Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the International Year of Forests, 2011
E/CN.18/2011/8	8	Report of the Secretary-General on the high-level ministerial segment and policy dialogue with heads of international organizations
E/CN.18/2011/9	9	Note by the Secretariat on multi-stakeholder dialogue
E/CN.18/2011/9/Add.1	9	Discussion paper submitted by the major groups on social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure
E/CN.18/2011/9/Add.2	9	Discussion paper submitted by the major groups on forests and culture
E/CN.18/2011/9/Add.3	9	Multi-stakeholder dialogue: discussion paper on the Community Forestry Programme in Nepal: an example of excellence in community-based forest management

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
E/CN.18/2011/10	10	Report of the Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, including the provision of further guidance to the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
E/CN.18/2011/11	10	Information document on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests Framework 2009 and 2010
E/CN.18/2011/12 and Corr.1	11	Report of the Secretary-General on the means of implementation for sustainable forest management
E/CN.18/2011/13	11	Report of the first meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing
E/CN.18/2011/14	12	Note by the Secretariat on United Nations trust funds to support the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2011/15	5	Letter dated 26 October 2010 from the Permanent Representatives of Mexico and Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the final report on the Oaxaca Workshop entitled "Forest governance, decentralization and REDD-plus in Latin America and the Caribbean"
E/CN.18/2011/16	5	Letter dated 3 November 2010 from the Permanent Representatives of Switzerland, Indonesia, South Africa and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the report on a series of workshops co-organized by the Governments of Switzerland, Indonesia, South Africa and Mexico on "Forest governance and decentralization workshop series"
E/CN.18/2011/17	5	Letter dated 9 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the summary report of the major groups-led initiative in support of the United Nations Forum on Forests
E/CN.18/2011/18	2	Note by the Secretariat on the accreditation of an intergovernmental organization to the United Nations Forum on Forests

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title*
E/CN.18/2011/19	5	Letter dated 11 January 2010 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General transmitting the Co-Chairs' summary report of the international expert meeting on forests for people: the role of national forest programmes and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests
E/CN.18/2010/2	12	Note by the Secretariat on strategies to mobilize resources from all sources to support the implementation of sustainable forest management, the achievement of the global objectives on forests and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including, inter alia, strengthening and improving access to funds and establishing a voluntary global forest fund
E/CN.18/2011/INF/1		List of participants

Annex II

Summary by the Chair of the multi-stakeholder dialogue

1. The United Nations Forum on Forests considered agenda item 9 at its 5th meeting, on 26 January 2011. For its consideration of the item, the Forum had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on multi-stakeholder dialogue (E/CN.18/2011/9);

(b) Discussion paper on social development and indigenous and other local and forest-dependent communities, including forest land tenure (E/CN.18/2011/9/Add.1);

(c) Discussion paper on forests and culture (E/CN.18/2011/9/Add.2);

(d) Discussion paper on the Community Forestry Programme in Nepal: an example of excellence in community-based forest management (E/CN.18/2011/9/Add.3).

2. A statement was made by the Director of the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests. Representatives from the major groups, namely women, the scientific and technological community and farmers and small forest landowners, prepared and presented three joint papers on the overall theme of the ninth session of the Forum. At the same meeting, the representative of the non-governmental organizations presented the results of the major groups-led initiative held in July 2010 in Accra, on intensifying the involvement of major groups in the implementation of Forum decisions and a major group two-year programme on intensifying the engagement of major groups in the work of the Forum.

Interactive discussion among Member States, major groups and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

3. The Forum held an interactive discussion among Member States, major groups and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) at its 5th meeting, on 26 January 2011. An opening statement was made by the Executive Director of the International Union of Forest Research Organizations, who moderated the interactive discussion.

4. At the same meeting, presentations were made by the representatives of the following major groups: women; the scientific and technological community; children and youth; non-governmental organizations; indigenous peoples; and farmers and small forest landowners, as well as by the representatives of Nepal, Suriname, Austria, Argentina (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), China, Papua New Guinea, Morocco, Brazil, Ghana and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

5. "Forests for people", the theme of the ninth session of the Forum, is a quite timely and relevant topic, as deforestation continues at an alarming rate and the social dimension of forests and forestry continue to be neglected.

6. There was a general understanding that continuing to overlook the social aspects of forests was a major factor in the global trend of forest loss. Similarly, unclear and insecure tenure rights for marginalized forest communities, including indigenous peoples and women, are considered as contributing factors to the lack of long-term commitment to sustainable forest management.

7. It was pointed out that social development was a prerequisite for sustainable forest management. The key methods for reversing the global trend of forest loss included empowerment of women as decision makers, strengthening the role of associations to facilitate the sharing of experiences and increasing bargaining power with government institutions, promoting sustainable agriculture, protecting the rights of marginalized and poor people, including youth, and encouraging their unique perspectives on sustainable forest management.

8. Around 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their subsistence and livelihoods and in Africa alone, more than 5 million hectares of forest is lost every year. In Africa, Asia and Latin America, an estimated 80 per cent of the population depend on medicinal plants and associated traditional knowledge for their primary health-care needs and around half the population of the industrialized world uses natural remedies. Traditional knowledge medical practices contribute to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 to 7. Cultural practices passed on from generation to generation have played a vital role in managing forests, conserving biodiversity and maintaining livelihoods and health care, and are critical for climate change adaptation. Traditional knowledge or "ethno-forestry" traditional practices conform to the standards of the Montreal Process criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, namely: (a) conservation of biological diversity; (b) maintenance of productive capacity of forest ecosystems; (c) maintenance of forest ecosystem health and vitality; (d) conservation and maintenance of soil and water resources; (e) maintenance of forest contribution to global carbon cycles; and (f) maintenance and enhancement of long-term multiple socio-economic benefits to meet the needs of societies.

9. During the dialogue, a successful national network of community-based forest management programmes in Nepal (FECOFUN), established in 1995, was highlighted. Prior to the establishment of FECOFUN, Nepal had experienced severe forest degradation, having lost more than 2.2 million acres of forest area. By implementing community-based forest management, Nepal changed its policy landscape, becoming a pioneer of community forest management. Nepal forests and forest-dependent communities were still faced with challenges including from climate change. Efforts aimed at securing land tenure and rights, capacity-building, support for networking, climate justice, technology transfer, access to markets and local control were essential for successful community-based forest management, a key factor in climate change mitigation.

10. It was noted that the policy recommendations that had come out of the major group-led initiative included the need to address issues associated with equity, such as access, rights, land and resource tenure and benefit-sharing. Forest-dependent peoples must have reliable access to forest resources and a role in decision-making on the use and benefits of resources.

11. Among the conclusions of the dialogue was the increased need for collaboration between Governments, CPF and other entities in forming a capacity-building framework, the provision of secure tenure rights for local communities, Government recognition of the rights and roles of communities, access to benefits (education, information and markets) and meaningful participation in decision-making and management.

12. It was also stated that traditional knowledge should be documented in close partnership with holders and users, encouraging the use of appropriate best

practices. The knowledge should be mainstreamed into national forest plans and programmes, as well as in the primary and secondary education curriculum with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. In concert with such measures, the scientific community should respect traditional knowledge, benefit from and provide assistance to preserve such knowledge. In addition, an equitable benefit-sharing regime should be developed, including a legal system that would require the disclosure of the sources of genetic resources in order to prevent attempts to patent traditional knowledge and curb "biopiracy".

13. The multi-stakeholder dialogue concluded with a greater appreciation of the range of work undertaken by the major groups in the Forum and a positive outlook for future endeavours.

Annex III

Summaries by the Chairs of the high-level round tables

A. Round table 1: Forests for people

1. The high-level round table on Forests for people (round table 1) of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests was held on 2 February 2011 during its high-level ministerial segment. The round table was chaired by Ingwald Gschwandtl, Vice-Chair of the Forum, and moderated by Mohamed El-Ashry, Senior Fellow of the United Nations Foundation and former Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). During this round table, ministers and high officials of the following countries made statements: Croatia, Norway, Turkey, Cameroon, Austria, Thailand, Zambia, Philippines, Peru, Ghana, China, Senegal, Mongolia, Angola, Romania, United States of America, Morocco, Hungary, Lesotho, Central African Republic, India, Poland, Russian Federation, Czech Republic, Israel, Mauritania, Ukraine, Gabon, Indonesia, Botswana, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Italy, Nepal and Jamaica.

2. The discussions at this round table were focused on the intertwined relationship between people and forests. Participants highlighted the multiple functions and contributions of forests to human well-being, environmental stability and economic development, noting that forests not only provide goods and services, but are also sources of folklore and spirituality and have deep roots in different cultures and religions. Member States emphasized that targeted policies were needed at the local, national, regional and international levels to sustainably manage forests. In this respect, good forest governance, tenure security, local participation, cross-sectoral and landscape-level policy frameworks, as well as increased funding and political commitment, were considered of high importance.

3. Forests play a vital role in preserving ecosystems and biological diversity, as well as in combating climate change and reducing risks from natural disasters. Concerns were expressed over deforestation, illegal logging, transboundary movement of illegal forest products, desertification, recurring droughts and changing forest land to agricultural land, especially in recent years. Meanwhile some countries indicated that recent policies enacted to protect and promote forest restoration efforts have resulted in improved environmental conditions — such as erosion control — and have also led to increased employment. Forests are also crucial for improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development, which was underscored by many countries. Forests offer multiple services, including timber and non-timber forest products, and are the main sources of food, medicine and raw materials for building and weaving and for employment generation.

4. The International Year of Forests was widely considered a major opportunity to increase awareness among the general public of the role of people as a key vehicle to protect the world's forests. To further promote a people-centred approach to forests, many countries supported the work of the Forum in exploring intersectoral linkages between forests, water, agriculture, land management and energy. Countries also emphasized that a comprehensive approach on forests is needed to reconcile short-term needs with long-term policy and economic interests. The involvement of a wide range of stakeholders in the development of national

forest programmes and model forests was also noted as an important factor to promote forests for people.

5. Limited financial and technical capacity, lack of data on forest resources, and difficulties in disseminating information to rural communities on sustainable forest management practices were highlighted as major impediments for realizing the full potential of forests. Countries recognized the significance of the existing collaboration among countries on these matters. However, many countries called for increased funding cooperation, including through establishing a global forest fund, to provide predictable and reliable funding for forests.

6. Participants underscored the need for advancing implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, and the achievement of the global objectives on forests. Many countries stressed that the four global objectives on forests were set to address people's needs.

B. Round table 2: Finance for forest-dependent communities

7. Round table 2, held on 2 February 2011 during the high-level ministerial segment of the ninth session of the Forum, focused on finance for forest-dependent people. It was chaired by Bureau member Ndiawar Dieng and moderated by Ana Maria Sampaio Fernandes, Ambassador of Brazil in Nairobi. During the round table, ministers and high officials of the following countries and international organization made statements: Plurinational State of Bolivia, Botswana, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Nepal, United States, Paraguay, Sudan and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

8. Discussions highlighted the fact that the contribution of forests to rural livelihoods is estimated at 25 to 40 per cent of household income. But because forests are significantly undervalued, laws and regulations often prohibit forest-dependent people from accessing forest resources, and public spending on community forestry remains low.

9. Several participants noted that forest-dependent peoples, who represent a significant proportion of the population in many developing countries, face various barriers in implementing sustainable forest management, ranging from the lack of clear and secure land tenure and use rights arrangements, as well as restricted access to information and participation in decision-making processes. Ensuring sustained sources of finance was another challenge highlighted, together with limited capacity-building and organizational training, as well as technical training for forest management. Emphasis was also put on the importance of recognizing all the functions of forests, including the social and cultural values of local and indigenous communities.

10. Several participants highlighted the fact that in medium and high forest cover countries, forests are the basis for specific markets for timber and non-timber forest products. They explained that forests are a major source of livelihoods for millions of people living in and around forests. However, because many forest-dependent communities are isolated and their economies are informal, they need assistance in developing products and gaining access to markets. In this regard, participants noted that in designing financing schemes to assist forest-dependent communities, the

informal economy and the knowledge and skills of local communities, including the non-cash values of the contribution made by forests to livelihoods, should be recognized. These and other types of financing, such as benefit distribution mechanisms, need to be equitable and involve all stakeholders, including the private sector where relevant, to support sustainable forest management activities with local communities, for example through their corporate social responsibility programmes.

11. Participants also highlighted the need for budget allocations at the national level to recognize the role of forests. While many stressed the need for funds to sustainably manage natural forests, they also noted that funding for reforestation and plantation projects was much easier to secure. A large number of national financing initiatives were mentioned, such as funds in Botswana to promote community-based natural resource management and small forest enterprises, as well as a new taxation system in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to secure Government revenue from logging operations. In both countries, there is also a system to redistribute part of this revenue to local communities. However, financing for forest communities and sustainable forest management, as noted by many participants, requires greater integration into national forest plans and national development plans.

12. Participants also addressed the international level, specifically the creation of multilateral funds, reflecting the global benefits that forests provide, for instance in terms of limiting the effects of climate change. Many pointed to existing funds, including those of the GEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the National Forest Programme Facility, and funding initiatives at the regional level. For example, REDD+ was viewed as a useful source of financing for local communities, which to an extent addresses cross-sectoral issues related to sustainable forest management. However, participants cautioned that communities could face risks from REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), as the focus of the mechanism remains on carbon stocks rather than on the rights and livelihoods of local communities. Therefore, aside from these efforts, participants highlighted the need for existing funds to be complemented by other sources of financing, capacity-building and technology transfer addressing forests in their entirety. In this context, many stated the need for a predictable source of funding for forests from the international community and that a global forest fund would address this very issue.

C. Round table 3: Forests-plus: a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach

13. Round table 3, "Forests-plus: a cross-sectoral and cross-institutional approach", held on 3 February 2011 during the high-level ministerial segment of the ninth session of the Forum, focused on the interlinkages and interactions of forests with forces outside the forest sector. The round table was chaired and moderated by Zainol Rahim Zainuddin, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Kenya. The following countries and organizations made statements during the event: Namibia, France, Mexico, Australia, Netherlands, Chad, Papua New Guinea (on behalf of Fiji, Samoa and Solomon Islands), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) and Economic Commission for Europe.

14. Discussions focused on sharing experiences and lessons learned on the realities of sustainable forest management and forest policy in the context of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional complexities. Many participants suggested areas for possible intersectoral cooperation. In this regard, several participants stressed the need to better understand the interlinkages and interactions between sustainable forest management and rapidly evolving policies and measures affecting climate change mitigation and adaptation, energy, agriculture and water. Participants also acknowledged the significance of forests in addressing economic, environmental and social challenges facing people, and their critical role for food security, sustainable livelihoods and poverty eradication.

15. At the operational level, several representatives highlighted challenges and opportunities for achieving sustainable forest management from forces outside the realm of the forest sector. Among these, some representatives noted actions to curb cases of illegal harvesting of forest resources and to restrict the importation of illegally logged timber, respectively, through close work with community-based forest management projects and capacity-building programmes. Ongoing efforts to implement Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) initiatives were also highlighted. For many small island developing States, concerns also focused on climate change-induced consequences. The experiences of other countries expressed during the round table to overcome intersectoral challenges included programmes encompassing a full range of sustainable forest management activities, inter alia, reforestation activities, a forest fund mechanism, distribution of incentives at the community level and legal reforms to recognize the land ownership of communities. Participants also noted the need to address fragmented approaches to forests at the policy and institutional level, bearing in mind that the main threats and impacts to forests lie outside the forest sector. In this regard, many participants welcomed the notion of "forests-plus" as an approach embracing the intersectoral and inter-institutional complexity of forests. Moreover, benefits derived from a cross-sectoral approach, namely in terms of increased budgets for forests, as well as programmatic synergies and higher values attached to forests and their conservation, were noted. At the same time, some participants referred to coordination through policy learning and underlined the need for approaching forest-related issues, not only cross-sectorally, but also at different levels of government — municipal, state and national — and involving non-governmental organizations, communities and other key stakeholders.

D. Round table 4: Forests and Rio+20

16. The high-level round table on "Forests and Rio+20" was held during the high-level ministerial segment of the ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, on 3 February 2011. The discussions for the round table were focused on the contributions of forests to the themes and objectives of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which will take place in 2012 in Brazil. This round table was chaired by Ingwald Gschwandtl, Vice-Chair of the Forum, and moderated by Daniel Reifsnyder, Deputy Assistant Secretary, United States Department of State. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), made initial remarks and provided a very useful context for Member States during the discussion. The round table included

statements from the Congo, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Finland, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Estonia, Switzerland, Sweden, Gabon, Togo, Egypt, Liechtenstein, Chile, Costa Rica, Slovakia, Kazakhstan, Algeria, Japan, Viet Nam, Nicaragua, Kenya, Poland, Senegal, China and Guyana.

17. Mr. Sha emphasized the importance for the round table of going beyond the environmental aspects of sustainable forest management and elaborating on how forests can contribute to poverty eradication, to the promotion of sustainable patterns of production and consumption and to discussion and developments on climate change. He also raised challenging questions for the participants to address, such as whether a timeline for the achievement of the four global objectives on forests should be aligned with the timeline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals; how the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests could be integrated at the national, regional and international levels; and what if any implications would there be for the instrument if REDD+ became a legally binding framework.

18. Many participants stated that the concept of a green economy needed further clarification, with some saying that there was still no consensus on what a green economy meant and others linking it to the (low/non-) use of carbon in the economy and to "green growth". It was mentioned that there was no such thing as "one size fits all", the green economy needed to be defined in a national context and should be placed in the context of sustainable development and not as a replacement for it. Despite the perception of a lack of agreement on the definition for the concept, countries stressed that Rio+20 provided the world with an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of forests and demonstrated the contribution of forests to a green economy through jobs and income generation, including gender equality; food security (agroforestry in particular was mentioned); renewable green energy; green technologies; ecosystem services and REDD+; repositories of biodiversity; reuse, recycling and reduction of waste from forest industries; green construction; green timber products; and rehabilitation of degraded forests and reforestation.

19. A number of countries mentioned good governance, empowered stakeholders, clear and secure land tenure, tangible and equitable benefit-sharing, and meaningful public participation as some of the essential conditions in achieving sustainable forest management and for forests to contribute to a green economy. The others would be the creation of an enabling environment for long-term investment in sustainable forest management, valuation of forest resources, access to markets for forest products, and capacity-building, transfer of environmentally sound technologies and financial cooperation.

20. On the second theme of the Rio+20 Conference, the institutional framework for sustainable development, a number of countries mentioned that Rio+20 should take stock of the progress on forests since 1992, as well as the efforts of countries in implementing the forest instrument and its four global objectives on forests. In the progress achieved, many participants outlined national efforts to promote sustainable forest management, including through massive reforestation and land restoration efforts, payments for ecosystem services schemes and inclusion of local and marginalized communities in forest management, planning and/or benefit-sharing. Some participants also noted the unique position of the Forum for advancing the role of forests in sustainable development and a green economy at the

Rio+20 Conference. In this context, it was proposed that the ministerial declaration of the ninth session of the Forum, the forest instrument and its global objectives on forests should be forwarded to the Rio+20 Conference as input from the Forum. Some countries also highlighted the need for a global forest fund, and emphasized that adequate financial and technical resources would be required in view of the question on a legally binding agreement. Others mentioned that a message for a global legally binding agreement on all types of forests would be needed. On the desired outcomes of Rio+20, some participants expressed their expectation for greater references to forests than at the 1992 summit. Additional suggestions included references to the role of youth in maintaining healthy forests and improving forest ecosystems, as well as an enhanced framework for cooperation that recognizes national and regional realities in sustainable forest management.

E. High-level dialogue with the heads of the member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests

21. A high-level dialogue with the heads of the 14 member organizations of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) took place on 3 February. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs moderated the session, introducing three themes of crucial importance to all CPF members: (a) promoting the International Year of Forests, 2011 (Forests 2011); (b) forest finance and the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and achievement of the global objectives on forests; and (c) forests and Rio+20.

22. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General of Forestry, FAO, and Chair of CPF, asserted that Forests 2011 had generated momentum for all forest programmes, creating opportunities, synergies and networks to shape operating environments and the priorities of organizations. He underscored the awareness-raising capacity of Forests, 2011, and stated that continued success would require strengthened, cross-sectoral communication and collaboration, as well as efforts to reach beyond CPF constituencies. He reiterated the need for an integrated approach, in particular on forest financing, as well as the responsibility of CPF to show the connections between sustainable forest management and a green economy.

23. Mr. Sha proceeded by introducing the panel of CPF speakers and inviting them to address questions related to the three themes introduced above.

Theme 1: Promoting the International Year of Forests, 2011

24. Helen Clark, Administrator, UNDP, noted that sustainable forest management went hand-in-hand with sustainable human development. She outlined UNDP efforts to develop country capacities through programmes such as REDD, as well as their ongoing collaboration with the small grants programme of GEF, supporting indigenous and community-led forest conservation activities. She also underscored the continued commitment of UNDP to engage in and support the work of the Forum.

25. Julia Marton-LeFèvre, Director General of IUCN, expressed confidence in the potential of Forest 2011 to raise public awareness on forest issues. She noted IUCN plans during 2011, among them activities to promote forests through a designated web portal; social networking forums; analysis and statistics focused on the relationship between forests and national markets; high-level forest-related events;

and the dissemination of messages on how the benefits from forests and trees extend well beyond forests themselves. IUCN is also reaching out to new partners, including youth and filmmakers.

26. Frances Seymour, Director General of the Center for International Forestry Research, stated that her organization was creating partnerships with policymakers and other organizations to ensure that their collaborative research programme on forests, trees and agroforestry aligns with key policy needs, as well as those of local communities. A number of events will be convened throughout the year, including on governance and dryland forests, to engage new constituencies and raise awareness of forest scientific issues. The event Forest Day 5, to be held in December 2011 in Durban, South Africa, was highlighted.

27. Dennis Garrity of the World Agroforestry Centre discussed the importance of agroforestry, especially in creating employment opportunities and increasing agricultural output. He called for greater recognition of agroforestry in sustainable landscape management, including the use of these tools for decreasing poverty and combating climate change. Cross-sectoral promotion and implementation of agroforestry was also highly encouraged.

28. Niels Koch, President, International Union of Forest Research Organizations, described the efforts of his organization to systematically expand activities at the science-policy interface. The IUFRO 2010-2014 strategy outlined six thematic areas: forests for people; climate change; forest biodiversity conservation; bioenergy; forests and water interactions; and resources for the future. He also mentioned activities in support of Forests 2011.

29. Jan McAlpine, Director, United Nations Forum on Forests secretariat, discussed the role of the secretariat in facilitating the coordination of CPF members, underscoring the success of collaboration among members especially when linked with the efforts of Member States. Ms. McAlpine also noted the work of the secretariat and CPF work in advancing the "360-degree role of forests", highlighting the launch of the landscape restoration project in Rwanda as an example.

Theme 2: Forest finance and implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and achievement of the global objectives on forests

30. Gustavo Fonseca, Director, Natural Resources, of GEF, underscored the continued efforts of CPF to effectively support the work of the Forum and called for building similar collaboration models within subgroups of CPF to help organizations access resources more efficiently. In this regard, he highlighted the creation of a programme to fund sustainable forest management and REDD+ projects. The commitment of the CPF to countries, particularly low forest cover countries and small island developing States, in supporting their national reporting needs and harmonizing forest-related information was also mentioned. On this topic, the partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Forum secretariat on forest funding in low-forest cover countries and small island developing States, including the need to identify gaps and barriers to forest financing activities, was underscored. He also stated that GEF would continue to engage in the facilitative process of the Forum and in the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on Forest Financing.

31. Gerhard Dieterle, adviser at the World Bank, underscored the support of his organization for the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, further highlighting their portfolio approach to forest financing. He indicated, however, a risk for developing countries in that their existing institutional and development capacities would not be able to meet the portfolio requirements, and therein he identified a strong role for CPF. He expressed the World Bank's commitment to continue working proactively as a member of the CPF Advisory Group on Finance, and highlighted the need for greater collaboration at all levels in forest finance.

Theme 3: Forests and Rio+20

32. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, indicated the importance of forest-related discussions to the parties to the Convention. He highlighted the fact that arid zones failed to attract adequate investment despite the importance of dryland forests in providing a buffer against drought and desertification, and called for more investment to prevent and reverse land degradation. Mr. Gnacadja called for CPF to move towards target-setting for Rio+20 and policies promoting payments for environmental services, especially for developing economies that are often land-based.

33. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, discussed the global partnership strategy and forest-related targets of the Nagoya Protocol, as well as the importance of translating those targets into national strategies and action plans before Rio+20. Mr. Djoghlaf called for strengthened partnerships between North and South, the private sector and Governments.

34. Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General of Forestry, FAO, emphasized the importance of ensuring an enabling environment for forest policy discussions at multiple levels. Efforts to create a world evaluation system to assess the contributions of natural resources, especially in consideration of the size of informal economies with many non-cash transactions, were called for. He emphasized that forest financing should internalize the positive and negative externalities related to forests.

35. Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director of the International Tropical Timber Organization, cautioned that there were far greater challenges in forest management compared to biodiversity and climate change. He expressed concern that negotiations resulted only in a non-legally binding instrument, as opposed to a legal agreement, and in the meantime the world's forests had continued to decline because of deforestation. He underscored the current opportunity to take stock of progress made on sustainable development, noting tangible progress with respect to a broad range of forest issues. While some countries have shown progress, others have been hampered by the lack of predictable forest-related financing and effective coordination and integration with local communities and other stakeholders. He underscored the need to address forest management in a holistic manner, and for stakeholders to redouble efforts to raise forest issues, highlighting emerging concepts such as the "green economy".

36. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP, highlighted the central role of forests in a "green economy" and the need for an institutional framework for sustainable development focusing on governance, especially land rights of rural communities and farmers. The challenge of putting together frameworks at the national scale and maintaining a public accounting

system for services provided by forests was discussed. He stated that the regeneration of forests should not compete with the agricultural sector, which is often the case owing to the undervaluation of forest benefits in monetary terms. He proposed measuring forest governance in terms of protection, with CPF providing technical assistance.

37. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, asserted via video message that CPF was an excellent forum for forest-related information-sharing among all members. She stressed the importance of keeping abreast of forest-related activities and issues, since all CPF members faced similar issues.

38. The discussion following the presentations acknowledged the work of CPF in promoting synergies, as well as its importance in forwarding novel approaches for innovative financing and collaborative modalities on forests. Also highlighted was the view that Rio+20 would consist of inputs that would emphasize the importance of cross-sectoral and cross-institutional cooperation. Brazil also announced plans to host a major groups workshop next year, back-to-back with the Rio+20 conference.

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